



## **Office of the Inspector General**

**David R. Shaw, Inspector General**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Follow-up Audit Shows Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Made Progress but Still Falls Short in Many Areas**

SACRAMENTO— Inspector General David R. Shaw released his annual Accountability Audit today, reporting that the state's Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) has implemented approximately 60 percent of the recommendations remaining from past audits but significant issues still need to be addressed.

“In the last several years, our comprehensive accountability audits have helped motivate the department to examine and improve its operations,” said Inspector General Shaw. “Nonetheless, we’re concerned that the department has still failed to address numerous recommendations.”

The Inspector General's office performs an annual accountability audit to follow up on problems identified in previous audits. The accountability audit provides an incentive for the department to implement recommendations that have gone unaddressed.

This year's accountability audit evaluates the department's efforts to address 114 unresolved recommendations identified in ten audits that the Inspector General's office issued between 2000 and 2007. The department successfully addressed 60 percent of the recommendations reviewed, including:

- completing reconciliations to recover overpayments of over \$5 million to three substance abuse service coordinators;
- improving its bidding process for substance abuse treatment providers to ensure best value and accountability; and
- making policy and procedural reforms at San Quentin State Prison regarding the release of high-control inmates, who pose the greatest risk to public safety.

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However, the department failed to implement many critical recommendations, some of which are now eight years old. For example, the department still has not implemented procedures to ensure that youthful offenders receive mandated services and are released from their rooms at least three hours per day. A 2005 special review by the Inspector General found that the practice of confining wards for long periods may have contributed to a youthful offender's suicide.

In another example, the department still does not consistently ensure that all correctional officers at armed posts complete quarterly weapons qualifications. Ignoring this recommendation could endanger employees and inmates and open the state to costly litigation.

"Our accountability audits have made a significant difference in the department's operations, and CDCR has demonstrated its ability to take appropriate action, implementing 60 percent of our recommendations," said Inspector General Shaw. "Nevertheless, I expect the department to increase its efforts to address the remaining items. My office will continue to push for change and monitor the department's progress in next year's accountability audit."

The entire 2009 accountability audit may be viewed and downloaded from the Office of the Inspector General's Web site at <http://www.oig.ca.gov/>.

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